



THE UNITED STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

GRADUATION CEREMONY



NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

June 12, 2026



Admiral Daryl Caudle 34th Chief of Naval Operations

Admiral Daryl Caudle is a native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina and a 1985 graduate of North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering. He received his commission after attending Officer Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island. Caudle is a licensed professional engineer and holds a Master of Science in Physics from the Naval Postgraduate School, a Master of Science in Engineering

Management from Old Dominion University, and a Doctor of Management in Organizational Leadership with a specialization in Information Systems and Technology from the School of Advanced Studies, University of Phoenix.

Caudle was sworn in as the 34th Chief of Naval Operations on August 25, 2025.

His flag officer assignments include Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command; U.S. Naval Forces Northern Command; U.S. Naval Forces Strategic Command; and U.S. Strategic Command, Joint Force Maritime Component Commander. He also served as Commander, Submarine Forces; Commander, Submarine Force Atlantic; Commander, Task Force (CTF) 114, CTF 88, and CTF 46; Commander, Allied Submarine Command; Vice Director for Strategy, Plans, and Policy on the Joint Staff (J-5) in Washington, D.C.; Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet; Deputy Commander, U.S. 6th Fleet; Director of Operations, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa; Commander, Submarine Group Eight Deputy; Deputy Commander, Joint Functional Component Command–Global Strike; and Deputy Chief for Security Cooperation, Office of the Defense Representative, Pakistan.

At sea, Caudle served aboard USS *George Washington Carver* (SSBN 656); USS *Stonewall Jackson* (SSN 634); USS *Sand Lance* (SSN 660); and as Executive Officer of USS *Montpelier* (SSN 765). He commanded USS *Jefferson City* (SSN 759), USS *Topeka* (SSN 754), and USS *Helena* (SSN 725). He also served as Deputy Commander, Submarine Squadron 11 and Commander, Submarine Squadron 3.

Ashore, he served as assistant force nuclear power officer, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet; Officer in Charge of Moored Training Ship (MTS 635); Assistant Deputy Director for Information and Cyberspace Policy on the Joint Staff (J-5) in Washington, D.C.; and Chief of Staff, Commander, Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet.

His personal decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Navy Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal (four awards), Legion of Merit (four awards), Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (five awards), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (four awards).

HISTORY OF THE U.S. NAVAL WAR COLLEGE

Founded in Newport, Rhode Island on October 6, 1884, the U.S. Naval War College is the oldest war college in the world. Commodore Stephen B. Luce was the first President and organized the War College as a place to study the highest aspects of the military profession, defining it as “a place of original research on all questions relating to war and to statesmanship connected with war, or the prevention of war.” These foundations were built upon by Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan, second President of the College, who had originally been selected by Luce to initiate the course in Naval History. Of all the men who were to influence the institution in its early years, none was to have a more profound impact. Mahan’s views deeply affected such leaders as Henry Cabot Lodge and Theodore Roosevelt and through them and others helped shape the United States’ destiny at the turn of the century. Mahan’s Naval War College lectures, published as *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660–1783* (1890), gained him worldwide acclaim and first established the U.S. Naval War College as an internationally respected institution. Other early faculty members made pioneering contributions to hallmark areas of enduring interest for the College. Among them were Charles Stockton, who drafted the first international law code for naval warfare in 1898, and William McCarty Little, who developed the art of naval war gaming between 1886 and 1914.

Functioning continuously since 1884, except for brief periods during the Spanish-American War and World War I, the War College numbers among its graduates such distinguished naval officers as Admirals Sims, Spruance, King, Nimitz, and Halsey, in addition to many others who today are holding prominent positions.

The work begun more than one hundred years ago by Luce and Mahan continues today. As graduates well know, the curriculum is both demanding and rewarding. For the military professional, the unique education provided by the Naval War College is unrivaled. In recognition of the academic rigor and educational excellence of its program, the U.S. Naval War College has been accredited since 1991 by first the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and now the New England Commission of Higher Education to award a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. In 2015 this accreditation was expanded to award two degrees. Graduating students in the senior level course now receive a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies while graduating students in the intermediate course receive a Master of Arts in Defense and Strategic Studies.

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION AND REGALIA

For centuries, institutions of higher learning have dignified their ceremonies with an academic procession, a custom descending from the clerical procession. The procession is led by a marshal, followed by the student body and the academicians or faculty, attired in the robes prescribed for their respective degrees. Distinguished visitors and delegates follow the faculty, and last in the procession comes the president of the institution.

Each member of an academic procession ordinarily wears a cap, gown, and hood. In the procession today military faculty will not wear academic gowns. The earliest illustration depicts gowns worn at Oxford University that somewhat resemble cassocks worn by English teachers who found good use for the hood, or cowl, as protection against the weather. A uniform American system of academic heraldry displays the level of degree, the field of study in which it was earned, and the institution by which it was granted.

It is the hood which provides academic regalia its color and offers the most information about its wearer. The silk lining of the hood bears the color, or colors, of the degree-granting college or university; its velvet facing reveals the color assigned to each area of study. The Bachelor's gown is relatively simple, falling in straight lines from an elaborate yoke and having pointed sleeves. The Master's gown is slightly more elaborate and fastens about the wrist. The Doctor's gown is marked by velvet panels down the front and around the neck, as well as by three bars of the same material on the well-shaped sleeves. It is cut more fully and may be ornamented. The hood worn is three feet in length for Bachelors, three and one-half feet for Masters, and four feet for Doctors, with velvet trimming of two, three, and five inches in width respectively.

The edging, or facing, velvet of academic hoods indicates the area of study. The principal scholarly fields seen in the procession today include:

<i>Philosophy</i>	<i>Dark Blue</i>
<i>Arts, Letters, Humanities</i>	<i>White</i>
<i>Business Administration</i>	<i>Light Brown</i>
<i>Economics</i>	<i>Copper</i>
<i>Engineering</i>	<i>Orange</i>
<i>Law</i>	<i>Purple</i>
<i>International Affairs/Public Administration</i>	<i>Peacock Blue</i>

The American mortarboard, derived from the soft Oxford cap, is black. Its tassel, for holders of the bachelor's and master's degree, is usually black, while gold tassels are worn by holders of doctoral degrees and heads of institutions. The tassel is worn on the right side of the cap by undergraduates, on the left by holders of bachelor's and higher degrees.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

JUNE 12, 2026

Processional Music	Navy Band Northeast
Procession of Students and Faculty	
Arrival of Official Party*	
National Anthem*	Musician Third Class Tamra Martinez, U.S. Navy Vocalist, Navy Band Northeast
Invocation*	Captain Paul S. Tremblay, U.S. Navy Command Chaplain, U.S. Naval War College
Welcome	Rear Admiral Darryl L. Walker, U.S. Navy President, U.S. Naval War College
Commencement Address	Admiral Daryl Caudle, U.S. Navy Chief of Naval Operations
Student Awards	
	RADM Joseph C. Strasser NSC International Leadership Prize RADM Joseph C. Strasser NCC International Leadership Prize Navy League Awards
Presentation of Graduates	
Presentation of Diplomas	
Charge to Graduates	Rear Admiral Darryl L. Walker, U.S. Navy President, U.S. Naval War College
Service Songs	Navy Band Northeast
Benediction	Captain Paul S. Tremblay, U.S. Navy Command Chaplain, U.S. Naval War College
Departure of Official Party*	

*Guests please stand

COLLEGE LEADERSHIP

Rear Admiral Darryl L. Walker, U.S. Navy
President

Dr. Stephen J. Mariano
Provost

Dr. Doyle K. Hodges
Dean of Academics

Captain Brian D. Doherty, U.S. Navy
Dean of Students

Professor Robert S. Winneg
Dean, International Programs

Dr. Sergio A. Costa
Dean, College of Distance Education

Professor Edward B. Cashman, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
Dean, College of Maritime Operational Warfare

Dr. Michael P. O'Hara
Dean, Center for Naval Warfare Studies

Dr. Jeffrey R. Macris
Dean, College of Leadership and Ethics

Dr. Derek S. Reveron
Chair, National Security Affairs Department

Captain John Porado, U.S. Navy
Chair, Joint Military Operations Department

Dr. Marybeth P. Ulrich
Chair, Strategy and Policy Department

Colonel Matthew P. Nischwitz, U.S. Army
Senior Army Advisor

Colonel Zachary T. Schmidt, U.S. Marine Corps
Senior Marine Corps Representative

Captain Duneley A. Rochino, U.S. Navy
Senior Navy Advisor

Colonel Elizabeth A. Hanson, U.S. Air Force
Senior Air and Space Force Advisor

Captain John M. McTamney, U.S. Coast Guard
Senior Coast Guard Advisor

Dr. Robert P. Waller
Senior State Department Advisor

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Captain Khaled Almannai, Royal Bahrain Naval Force
Captain Faisal Chawdhury, Bangladesh Navy
Captain (N) Georgi Petrov, Bulgarian Navy
Captain Douglas Layton, Royal Canadian Navy
Commander Nicolás Boisier, Chilean Navy
Commander Manuel Ariza, Colombian Navy
Commander Anders Biel, Royal Danish Navy
Commander Juan Carlos Ibarra, Ecuadorian Navy
Commander Igor Maury, French Navy
Commander Carsten Schlueter, German Navy
Commander Georgios Kapnisis, Hellenic Navy
Captain Gaurav Joshi, Indian Navy
Colonel Yano Wenas, Indonesia Navy
Commander Idan Tabib, Israeli Navy
Captain Francesco Rima, Italian Navy
Captain Hiroshi Matsukawa, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force
Colonel Anthony Naibei, Kenya Navy
Commander KwangHee Kim, Republic of Korea Navy
Colonel Yusef Alshatti, Kuwait Naval Force
Commander Ahmad Elias Sherry, Lebanese Navy
Commander Mhd Izmi Faizal, Royal Malaysian Navy
Captain Víctor Lozano, Mexican Navy
Commander Nabil Boutayeb, Royal Moroccan Navy
Captain Geoffrey Ugwu, Nigerian Navy
Commander Senior Grade Åshild Lunåshaug, Royal Norwegian Navy
Captain Tayyab Wadood Anwar, Pakistan Navy
Captain Roberto Gonzalez, Peruvian Navy
Commander Charo Talamor Española, Philippine Navy
Captain Cezary Gnoza, Polish Navy
Captain Decebal Ciobăniță, Romanian Naval Forces
Commander Sultan Alshehah, Royal Saudi Naval Force
Captain Julio Perez, Spanish Navy
Captain Thanujaka Hemantha, Sri Lanka Navy
Commander Tsung En Yen, Taiwan Navy
Commander Nattapol Hirattanapan, Royal Thai Navy
Captain Kais B. Rhima, Tunisian Navy
Commander Abdullah Susoy, Turkish Naval Forces
Captain 1st Rank Denys Ivanin, Ukrainian Navy

Naval Staff Colonel Obaid Alsuwaidi, United Arab Emirates Navy
Commander Scott Andrew Taylor, Royal Navy
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Lieutenant Colonel Damon A. Doykos, U.S. Marine Corps
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Colonel Mark V. Ross, U.S. Army
with Distinction

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with Highest Distinction

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with Distinction

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with Distinction

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with Distinction

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Commander Brendan Sullivan, U.S. Coast Guard
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Lieutenant Commander Joshua E. Szakal, U.S. Navy
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Lieutenant Colonel Matthew R. Voke, U.S. Air Force
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Mr. Curry D. Wright, Defense Senior Leadership Development Program
Lieutenant Colonel Andrew M. Wrzosek, U.S. Marine Corps

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with Distinction
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Lieutenant Commander Nahian Baker Milky, Bangladesh Navy
Commander Vinicius Rangel, Brazilian Navy
Lieutenant Commander Hristiyan Kostov, Bulgarian Navy
Lieutenant Commander Francisco Torres, Colombian Navy
Commander Ahmed Ibrahim, Egyptian Navy
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Lieutenant Commander Meelis Kants, Estonian Navy
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Commandant Junior Grade Vikas Narang, Indian Coast Guard
Lieutenant Commander Ashish Tyagi, Indian Navy
Lieutenant Commander Heri Julianto, Indonesia Navy
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Lieutenant Commander Mohamad Syafiq Ibrahim, Royal Malaysian Navy
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Lieutenant Commander Alexandru Vladut, Romanian Naval Forces
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Lieutenant Commander Mishari Alogaiel, Royal Saudi Naval Force
Lieutenant Commander Bader Alsubai, Royal Saudi Naval Force
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with Distinction

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with Distinction

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Commander Vitalii Sakir, Ukrainian Navy
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with Highest Distinction

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with Distinction

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with Distinction

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with Highest Distinction

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Lieutenant Commander John R. Sturgill, U.S. Navy

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Major Benjamin F. Sutphen, U.S. Marine Corps

Lieutenant Commander Nicholas A. Szappanos, U.S. Navy

with Distinction

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Lieutenant Commander Casey L. Trop, U.S. Navy

Commander Andrew J. Tye, U.S. Navy

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Lieutenant Commander Patrick D. Waller, U.S. Navy

Major Steven C. Walton, Jr., U.S. Army

Major Nicole R. Warren, U.S. Air Force

Major John C. Weidinger, U.S. Army

with Highest Distinction

Major Michael J. Weiss, U.S. Army

with Distinction

Mr. Jared B. Wenninger, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

Major Philip A. West, U.S. Air National Guard

Ms. Meghan M. White, Department of State

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The Army Goes Rolling Along (U.S. Army)

*First to fight for the right,
And to build the nation's might,
And the Army goes rolling along.
Proud of all we have done
Fighting till the battle's won,
And the Army goes rolling along.
Then it's Hi! Hi! Hey!
The Army's on its way.
Count off the cadance loud and strong;
For where'er we go,
You will always know
That the Army goes rolling along.*



Marine Corps Hymn (U.S. Marine Corps)

*From the Halls of Montezuma
To the Shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
In the air, on land and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
And to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
Of United States Marine.*



The Air Force Song (U.S. Air Force)

*Off we go into the wild blue yonder,
Climbing high into the sun;
Here they come zooming to meet our thunder,
At 'em now, Give 'em the gun!
Down we dive, spouting our flames from under,
Off with one helluva roar!
We live in fame or go down in flame. Hey!
Nothing'll stop the U.S. Air Force!*



**Semper Supra
(U.S. Space Force)**

*We're the mighty watchful eye,
Guardians beyond the blue.
The invisible front line,
Warfighters brave and true.
Boldly reaching into space,
There's no limit to our sky.
Standing guard both night and day,
We're the Space Force from on high!*



**Semper Paratus
(U.S. Coast Guard)**

*We're always ready for the call,
We place our trust in Thee.
Through surf and storm and howling gale,
High shall our purpose be.
"Semper Paratus" is our guide,
Our fame, our glory too.
To fight to save or fight and die,
Aye! Coast Guard, we are for you!*



Anchors Aweigh
(U.S. Navy)

*Anchors Aweigh, my boys,
Anchors Aweigh.
Farewell to foreign shores,
We sail at break of day-ay-ay-ay.
Through our last night on shore,
Drink to the foam,
Until we meet once more:
Here's wishing you a happy voyage home.*



The motto of the Naval War College is

“Victory through Sea Power.”

The trident rising from the water symbolizes mastery of naval activities—its three tines are evocative of naval warfare on sea, air, and land. The pilot wheel atop the shield alludes to the mission of the college—education in naval warfare. The wheel’s eight spokes symbolize honor, duty, leadership, command, strategy, tactics, logistics, and weapons. The laurel wreath represents achievement of the mission.